

CONGRATULATING AMBER ROSE

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Ms. Amber Rose, an outstanding young woman from Elizabeth, Colorado. Ms. Rose, a student at Elizabeth High School was recently named a recipient of the 12th Annual Prudential Spirit of Community Award as a State recipient. The award honors this young woman as one of the top two youth volunteers in Colorado for 2007.

Created in 1995 in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, Prudential Financial's Spirit of Community Award program has become America's largest youth recognition program based solely on volunteerism. It is designed to emphasize the importance of service and encourages young Americans to give back to their communities.

Nominated by her high school, Amber founded a nonprofit organization that distributed more than \$30,000 worth of art supplied to disadvantaged children around the world. As a State Honoree, Amber will receive a \$1,000 award, an engraved silver medallion and a trip to Washington, DC, from May 5 to 8 for the program's national recognition events. During this trip she will be considered to become 1 of 10 National Honorees.

Ms. Rose should be commended for her commitment and selflessness. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 246, on H.R. 1434, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 896 Pittsburgh Street in Springdale, Pennsylvania, as the "Rachel Carson Post Office Building," I was attending a memorial service for the students and parents of the 18th Congressional District of Pennsylvania affected by the Virginia Tech shootings. I am also a cosponsor of H.R. 1434.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING REVEREND ANTONIO VALDIVIA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and work of Reverend Antonio Valdivia, Pastor of St. Louis Bertrand Parish in Oakland, California. Known affectionately to his parishioners, and throughout his community, simply as Father Tony, he has served as a priest in the Catholic Church for over 44 years. Today, the St. Louis

Bertrand Parish and the Oakland community come together to thank him for his leadership and service on the occasion of his retirement.

The son of first-generation immigrants from Jalisco, Mexico, Father Tony was born in Oakland. Growing up in West Oakland, he attended St. Joseph Parish, which later merged with St. Andrew Parish and is now part of the Catholic Parish of Christ the Light. During his childhood, Father Tony spent every Sunday at the parish church, attending morning Mass and then returning in the evening for Benediction. One day a priest picked him to be an altar server, and this began his journey into the religious vocation.

Father Tony attended elementary school at Old St. Mary's Parish and was taught by the Holy Names Sisters. Later he studied at St. Patrick's Seminary and University in Menlo Park where he was one of the few Hispanic seminarians on campus, and the only student from West Oakland. He enjoyed his experience in the seminary, particularly his studies in English literature and philosophy.

Father Tony was especially drawn to studies that presented a model of Church as being present in the life of the people. While in school he worked to put those teachings into practice, guiding people as they struggled through the changes in the liturgy, the birth of parish councils, and the development of lay leadership. He also walked with them through the pain of the civil rights era, the Vietnam War, the advent of widespread drug use, the emergence of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and the continuing and often tumultuous dialogue over the issue of immigration.

During his 44 years as a priest, Father Valdivia served as pastor of five parishes: St. Anthony in Oakland, St. Leonard (now Our Lady of Guadalupe) in Fremont, St. Cornelius in Richmond, St. Catherine in Martinez, and at St. Louis Bertrand since 2003. In addition to serving as vicar of the diocesan Hispanic community, he also served as an associate pastor, as well as a member of the diocesan Pastoral Leadership Placement Board.

Father Tony holds a master's degree in counseling and has used those skills to counsel at-risk youth at public schools throughout the Bay Area. He also put that training to use as a missionary in the Archdiocese of San Salvador from 1991-93, serving as an advocate for peace and justice in a community that was being ravaged by civil war.

I have known Father Tony for many years, and it has always been a pleasure to work with him in the service of my constituents. He is an unwavering advocate for human rights, labor rights, immigration reform, peace and social justice. His commitment to his parishioners and to the people of Oakland has had a positive impact on countless lives. Today I join the St. Louis Bertrand Parish, along with our entire community, in thanking and saluting Reverend Antonio Valdivia for his profound contributions to California's 9th Congressional District, our country and our world.

NORTHERN IRELAND PARLIAMENT

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today is an historic day for the peo-

ple of Northern Ireland. A day that has been years in the making and which heralds a new era of peace. Today in Belfast, parliament opened with the swearing in of Unionist and Sinn Fein members side-by-side.

I congratulate Ian Paisley and Martin McGuinness on their new roles as first minister and deputy first minister of the assembly. Today is proof that despite decades of violence, two previously bitter enemies can sit down and work through their differences peacefully through representative government.

Nine years ago, the Good Friday Agreement envisioned this day. The work to cement that achievement has been difficult but it has been accomplished through negotiation and compromise.

Certainly, today is not the end of disagreement, but it is the beginning of settling things politically and not militarily. Today is possible because both sides have recognized that violence is not productive, that killing benefits neither side. The children of Northern Ireland can now grow up in a country where hate is not a virtue.

What the people of Northern Ireland have accomplished today is an example for areas around the world suffering with internal conflict. A people who were once at war with one another have freely elected leaders who will work to solve problems peacefully.

Again, I congratulate the people of Northern Ireland on this historic occasion. It is a day to remember and in which they should take pride.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 247, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 320 South Lecanto Highway in Lecanto, Florida as the "Sergeant Dennis O. Flannigan Lecanto Post Office Building," I was attending a memorial service for the students and faculty of the 18th Congressional District of Pennsylvania affected by the Virginia Tech shootings.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING SAINT JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Saint John Missionary Baptist Church, one of the oldest and most highly regarded churches in Oakland, California. Today, the Oakland community comes together to celebrate Saint John's 60 years of ministry and invaluable service to the community.

Saint John Missionary Baptist Church was founded by the late Dr. Carl J. Anderson on July 7, 1947. For 54 years, Dr. Anderson led an extensive outreach effort to thousands of sick, disadvantaged and imprisoned persons.